



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

July 7, 2016

Pastoral Center  
Rev. Francis Morin  
24 Washington Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Rev. Morin,

Recently, a concerned citizen alerted me regarding a bulletin distributed by the St. Michael Parish. I would like to address the misinformation your parish has allowed to be circulated.

To my surprise, your parish voluntarily shared information from the group Mainers for Responsible Gun Ownership, which advocates for the passage of universal background checks. In November, voters will have an opportunity to make a choice on this issue and this group is clearly lobbying for a "Yes" vote from your parish. Why a church would allow lobbying propaganda to infiltrate your parish is beyond me. This group is careless with its own claim to facts and you may want to distribute the attached information from our office clarifying this misinformation shared with your congregants.

Because the church has chosen to take sides I feel it necessary to provide more clarity of the facts so voters may make an informed decision in November.

Sincerely,

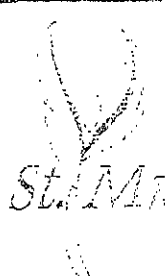
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

cc:

Diocese of Portland



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# St. Michael Parish

*The Central Maine Catholic Community Of  
St. Michael Parish United by Christ's love,  
Strengthened by Word and Sacraments,  
Serves God's people in a spirit of hope!*

Parish Mission Statement

July 3, 2016

The Central Maine "Capital Region" Catholic Community • Est. 2007

## Sacred Heart

14 Summer St., Hallowell

## St. Augustine

75 Northern Ave., Augusta

## St. Denis

298 Grand Army Rd., Whitefield

## St. Francis Xavier

130 Route 133, Windthrop

## St. Joseph

110 School Street, Gardiner

## St. Mary

41 Western Avenue, Augusta

## St. Michael School

207-623-3491

[www.smsmaine.org](http://www.smsmaine.org)

## Pastoral Center

24 Washington Street

Augusta, ME 04330

207-623-8823. Fax: 623-7574

[St.Michael@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:St.Michael@portlanddiocese.org)

[www.stmichaelmaine.org](http://www.stmichaelmaine.org)

### HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 8am-4pm

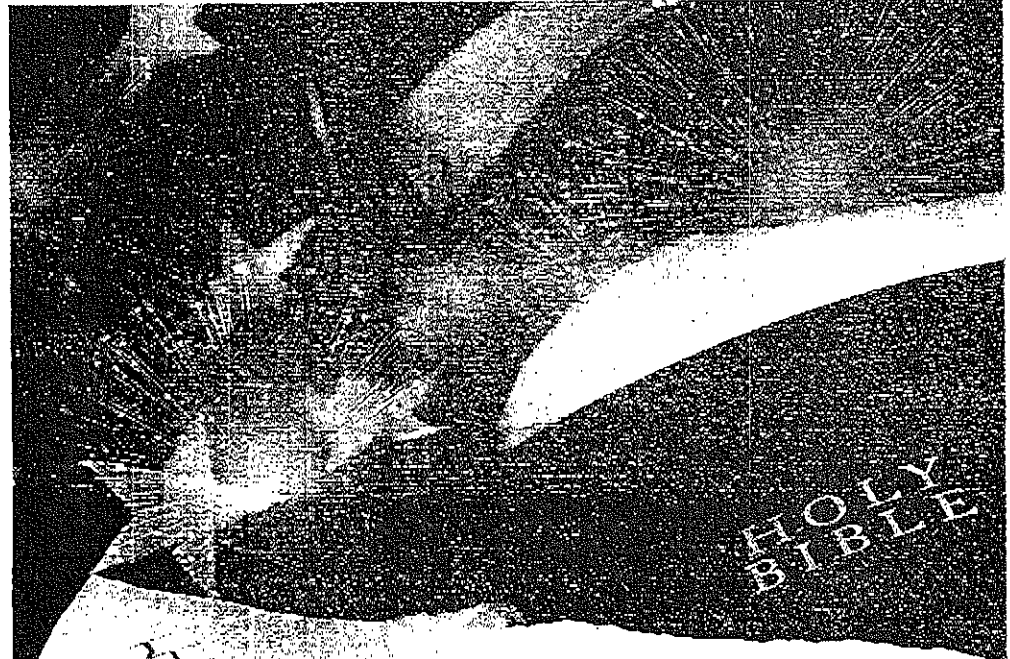
Friday 8am-1pm

Pastoral Council meetings are held on  
the 1st Monday of every other month  
at 6:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

### Diocese of Portland Website

[www.portlanddiocese.net](http://www.portlanddiocese.net)

[www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)



*We the People*

ONE NATION

*Under God*

PRESENCE

895



## Counter Point to Mainers for Responsible Gun Ownership's Newsletter

**First "Wrong" allegation:** The Supreme Court has generally upheld the constitutionality of background checks but has never had occasion to rule on a blanket, one-size-fits-all background check requirement that is encompassed by the proposed initiative.

**Second "Wrong" allegation:** This does not speak to the Governor's statement. He simply said that after tragedies in which guns happen to be used (unlike the Boston bombing where pressure cookers were used); liberal politicians call for Australia-type gun confiscation. Governor Cuomo: "confiscation could be an option. Mandatory sale to the state could be an option."

**Third "Wrong" allegation:** The anti-gun group responsible for getting the question on the ballot in Maine spent \$1.3 million on that enterprise. Michael Bloomberg's "Everytown" group donated 95% of that figure.

**Fourth "Wrong" allegation:** It is not in dispute that this initiative would require background checks for sales or transfers that now do not require background checks. Background checks are performed at federally licensed firearm dealers. Those dealers charge for the service of a background check because they are for profit businesses. Therefore, the necessary implication of the initiative passing is that there will be additional costs associated with selling or transferring firearms: the cost dealers will charge to perform the background check service.

**Fifth "Wrong" allegation:** The initiative would make it illegal to simply sell or transfer firearms to a friend without first having a background check performed on the friend. Further, the exception for hunting only applies if the transferee takes possession while in the act of hunting. Under the terms of the initiative, a friend cannot loan you a gun without first performing a background check unless the friend accompanies you during every minute of the hunt or unless the friend takes possession while in the act of hunting. Additionally under the initiative, one cannot simply loan a gun to use at a range without first going through the background check procedure. There is a limited exception for transfers at "established range[s]" that specifically authorize such transfers. Generally, either to meet the terms of the exception, the possession would have to commence at the range or the transferor would have to be in the presence of the transferee during every moment of the transferee's possession.

**Sixth "Wrong" allegation:** What the Governor said is absolutely correct. While there are limited exceptions for family members, a grand-uncle would not qualify as a "family member" per the terms of the initiative.

**Seventh "Wrong" allegation:** This initiative would be extremely difficult to enforce without a gun registry. How is law enforcement supposed to know whether an illegal transfer of a firearm has been effectuated if they don't know who owns the firearm? It is absolutely the case that this is the first step in the direction of creating a universal gun registry.

**Eighth "Wrong" allegation:** This initiative very clearly makes activity which has always been legal subject to criminal sanctions. It criminalizes behavior that has always been legal.

**Ninth “Wrong” allegation:** The murder rates in Chicago are a great shame of our country. To say that the gun ban in that city has worked would be to ignore the troubling statistics: the murder rate in Chicago is up 72% from 2015 to 2016; shootings are up 88%. To say that without strict gun control, the figure would be higher ignores the common sense argument that if law abiding citizens were allowed to possess guns, the crime rate would go down. For instance, in Maine, citizens enjoy both a low crime rate and a relatively high level of gun ownership. Maine has also recently done away with the requirement that law abiding citizens first obtain a permit before they are permitted to conceal weapons. It is time to realize that a way to reduce crime is to increase the ability of law abiding citizens to defend them by possessing firearms. See: *More Guns, Less Crime* by Dr. John Lott.